

***Amendments to the Specification***

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1, which starts with “An embodiment of a network”, with the following amended paragraph:

An embodiment of a network 200 having the link-lock system 206 is illustrated in FIG. 2. The network 200 includes a network interface device 204 configured to interface with the network infrastructure 201 through a link 202 operating in a secured protocol (e.g., HTTP-S). The HTTP-S provides a variety of security mechanisms to HTTP clients and servers, providing the security service options appropriate to a wide range of potential end uses.

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, which starts with “The network 200 further includes”, with the following amended paragraph:

The network 200 further includes a link-lock system 206 coupled to the network interface device 204. The link-lock system 206 monitors security status of the link 208 between the network interface device ~~206~~ 204 and a computer used to connect to the network, such as the server or the client 210. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 2, when the link-lock system 206 determines that a link failure or intrusion is detected, the security protocol of the link 208 is maintained in an HTTP-S mode rather than converted into an HTTP mode. The link failure or intrusion may include physical tampering or alteration of any part of the link 208 between the network interface device 204 and the server/client 210. The failure or intrusion may also include a software attack or modification of the link 208 from external sources.